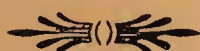


WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Urban District Council.



Annual Report

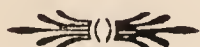
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For 1895.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Urban District Council.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For 1895.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30267560>

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
For 1895

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Weston-super-Mare.*

GENTLEMEN,

From the Registrar's returns I find that during the year 1895, 316 births (172 males and 144 females) were registered in the district, giving a birth-rate of 19·9 per 1,000 of the population (census 1891), viz., 15,869, or 18·2 per 1,000 of the estimated present population of 17,300. The number of births for 1894 was 331, showing a decrease of 15 in 1895.

During the same period the deaths of 282 persons (126 males and 156 females) were registered in the district, being an increase of 76 on the number in 1894, and giving a death-rate of 17·77 per 1,000 of the population (census 1891), or 16·3 per 1,000 of the estimated present population. Forty, or 14 per cent. of the deaths recorded were of children under one year of age, and one hundred and nine, or 38·6 per cent. of persons aged 65 and upwards, viz, 29 between 65 and 70, 51 between 70 and 80, and 29 between 80 and 90, giving an average of 73 years 11 months.

The deaths registered from the principal zymotic diseases number 9, as against 15 in 1894,

and give a death-rate of 0·56 per 1,000 of the population (census 1891) or 0·46 per 1,000 of the estimated present population.

To show the localities in which the deaths occurred I have divided the town into the four Ecclesiastical and Moorland Road districts, viz.:—

1895					
<i>District.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>		<i>Rate per 1,000.</i>	
Trinity	1272	...	30	...	23·5
St. John's.....	4285	...	60	...	14
Emmanuel ...	4321	...	77	...	17·8
Christ Church	5651	...	102	...	18·1
Moorland Road	340	...	13	..	38·2
<hr/>		<hr/>			
15869		282			

The list of deaths includes 22 visitors, 21 in the General Hospital, 5 in the Royal Sanatorium, and 19 requiring the Coroner's inquisition, as against 17, 20, 2, and 8 respectively in 1894.

The following table shows the number of deaths from all causes, and those from the seven principal zymotic diseases for the past ten years:—

<i>Deaths from all causes.</i>									
1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895
230	266	198	246	282	257	262	253	206	282

<i>Deaths from the Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.</i>									
14	40	17	15	22	5	33	11	15	9

During the year 29 notifications of infectious diseases were received, as against 54 for 1894, of which 10 were of scarlatina, 4 of diphtheria, 9 of enteric fever, and 6 of erysipelas.

Small Pox.—No case occurred in the district.

Scarlatina. — Ten cases were notified, 2 occurring in the first quarter, 1, 5, and 2 in the following quarters respectively. All the cases appeared sporadically in different parts of the town, and the only ones in which I could trace the source of the disease were of those imported. As each case was notified every precaution was taken to prevent the spread of infection, and 8 were removed to the Statutory Hospital. No death is returned from this disease.

Diphtheria.—Four cases were reported, 2 of which occurred in the early part of the year, and were due to defective sanitary arrangements, which defects were immediately remedied. The others appeared in the persons of a gentleman and his son, who had contracted the disease before their arrival in Weston, having come from an infected house. No death is due to this complaint.

Diarrhœa was somewhat prevalent during the third quarter, and six deaths are returned from this disease, five of which occurred in infants under one year of age, and one in a child aged fourteen months. Five of these were notified from Christ Church, and one from St. John's districts.

Measles were not prevalent during the year, and no death is returned. This disease is not notified in the district.

Whooping Cough was not prevalent, but a few cases appeared in the first and last quarters, two deaths being returned in infants, aged ten and two months respectively.

Enteric Fever. — Nine cases were notified during the months of July, August, and September, five of which occurred in the Christ Church, two in Trinity, one in Emmanuel, and one in St. John's districts. In only one instance could I trace the disease to defective sanitation, although the smoke test was applied to the drains of each house where the cases occurred. One case was removed to the General Hospital. One death is returned from this disease.

Influenza was slightly prevalent during the first quarter, and four deaths are returned from this complaint in the persons of the aged.

As I mentioned in my annual report last year, the fact of the transference from the Burial Board to your authority of powers to acquire increased burial accommodation, throws upon you a heavy sanitary responsibility. No time ought to be lost in deciding upon a new site, and in making provision for what may before long become a pressing necessity.

I beg once more to accentuate the necessity still existing for increased Hospital accommodation for *paying patients*, who may happen to be the subjects of infectious disease, and to express the hope that in the present year definite steps may be taken to meet this urgent public want, and at the same time to advise your Council to make provision for a steam disinfecting apparatus, the want of which is much felt. At the present time all clothing and bedding, &c., have to be sent out of the town for disinfection, and in some cases owners prefer to

burn their property rather than be subjected to this inconvenience. We cannot hope to deal successfully with an outbreak of infectious disease unless such apparatus is provided for the town, and the saving of property and the increased security would be greatly appreciated.

Tables A and B, which I append, are tabulated statements of the deaths registered, and of the sickness in the district, classified according to diseases, ages and localities.

I also append a table showing particulars of sanitary work done by your Inspector.

In conclusion, I may add that systematic inspection of the district has been made, as in former years, and all insanitary conditions and ordinary nuisances, as soon as they were discovered, received immediate attention, while those localities in which zymotic diseases appeared were specially and carefully watched, and their hygienic requirements attended to.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES VERNON HITCHINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Wyndham Villa,

February 8th, 1896.

(A)

(B) **TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Weston-super-Mare Urban District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.**

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.																
	(d) Census 1891.	(c) Estimated to middle of 1895.	(d) Registered Births.			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	FEVERS.				9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
														Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued	Relapsing																			Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.
(a)				Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.						Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.					
Weston-super-Mare	15869	17300	316	Under 5 5 upwds	5	4		9						6							3				1										
Infectious Wards of General Hospital				Under 5 5 upwds													1																		
Statutory Hospital				Under 5 5 upwds	3																3														
Totals ..	15869	17300	316	Under 5 5 upwds	5	4		9						6							5				1										

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District. Yes. Since when? 1st January, 1890. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the Sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated—Statutory Hospital.

BIRTH RATE Per 1000 Population.	INFANT MORTALITY.			DEATHS from ZYMOTIC DISEASES.		
	Per 1000 Deaths.	Per 1000 Births.	Per 1000 Population.	Per 1000 Deaths.	Per 1000 Births.	Per 1000 Population.
18.2 estimated 19.9 (census 1891)	141.8	126.5	0.46 estimated. 0.56 (census 1891).	31.9		

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

For the Year ending 31st December, 1895.

Accumulations of offensive matters removed	...	...	27
Bake-house Inspections	...	...	30
Common Lodging-house Inspections	...	...	16
Cesspit and Foul Cisterns cleansed	...	...	6
Dairy and Milk-shops Inspected	...	...	20
Drains cleansed and repaired	...	...	36
Foul Closets and Privies cleansed	..	...	47
„ „ provided with Sanitary Pans	...	...	30
„ „ „ with Flush Cisterns	...	...	29
Sinks trapped outside	...	...	27
Drains tested with the Smoke Machine	...	...	82
„ retested	...	...	25
Drains relaid (31 soil pipes ventilated)	..	...	25
Sanitary Inspection of Premises by request	..	...	42
Number of Premises received Sanitary Certificate	...	...	12
Sanitary Inspection of School Premises	...	...	25
Premises Cleansed and Lime-washed	..	...	68
Rooms and Premises Fumigated	...	...	29
Slaughter House Inspections	...	...	24
Miscellaneous Nuisances Removed	...	...	18
Number of New Connections to Town Water Supply	...	...	80
„ of Notices to remedy water waste and leakages	...	...	160
„ of Notices served to remedy sanitary defects	...	...	160
„ of Legal proceedings taken and conviction obtained			3
„ of Articles destroyed two carcasses of pork, and nine boxes of putrid onions			
Number of premises inspected	..	...	839

REMARKS.—The Scavenging of the town is well carried out by the Council. The method adopted of removal twice a week, proving generally satisfactory. House to house inspection has been made, and special reports written on the sanitary condition of 48 premises.

H. HILLMAN, Sanitary Inspector.

